

The Civic Engagement Times

MARCH/APRIL 2009

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Boards and Commissions Goes Paperless	2
Transportation Meets Civic Engagement	2
Commonwealth Corps Spotlight	3
Events from the Executive Branch and Across the Commonwealth	3&4

A Message from the Governor

This marks our sixth edition and the end of our first volume of the Civic Engagement Times. When we began this project a year ago, our mission was to identify a new line of communication across state government and beyond; with my colleagues who work daily to provide critical services to residents across the Commonwealth and with those residents who believe in the power of an active citizenry. Civic participation lives in Massachusetts. On many key issues from immigrant integration in the New Americans Agenda, to the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet tour, to the Oceans Commission, public input is being actively solicited across state government and the residents of Massachusetts are answering the call.

In this edition, we will highlight the ways in which our state's libraries are becoming sources of community strength and security during states of emergency as well as my administration's continued use of the Internet and new media tools to foster greater civic involvement. In addition we will address my Transportation and Economic Security Plan and the important role the residents of Massachusetts have played in shaping that plan.

I welcome your feedback to all parts of the Civic Engagement Times and encourage you to email Grassroots.Governance@state.ma.us with your questions and comments. As we continue this important dialogue, we look forward to incorporating your suggestions to make this newsletter a stronger instrument for change.



Governor's Western MA Office

Governor's Western MA Office now holding public office hours at locations throughout Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties to offer citizens another tool to interact with their state government where they live.

Mar. 12—Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Rick Sullivan, Western MA Office, 436 Dwight St., Springfield 2—4:30PM
6—7:30pm Public Forum at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, 165 High St., Greenfield

www.mass.gov/governor/westernmass

Libraries as DRCs Sparks National Interest

Libraries are often thought of as a good place to find a comfy chair and read a book, or go online for free, or as a place to bring kids for story-time. But what began as a pilot project between Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) may soon become a national model of disaster recovery. The project assigns Massachusetts libraries the central role of acting as Emergency Management Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs).

DRCs provide information and resources to help people in the disaster recovery process. They are spaces where the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and govern-

ment recovery agencies provide face-to-face assistance to individuals following a gubernatorial or presidential disaster declaration.

Robert C. Maier, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners sees the libraries' new role as a logical step, "It's the latest way that our libraries continue to evolve to meet the needs of the residents in their communities. People have always relied on libraries; we need to be there for them in the event of an emergency."

Other states, including several in New England, have already shown interest in adapting the Massachusetts model to their own communities.

The pilot project focused on a corridor of communities along the Massachusetts

coast from the New Hampshire border to the Cape & Islands out to 495. In libraries not selected to serve as DRCs, MEMA trained library staff to provide other types of recovery assistance. FEMA also created a GIS database of the libraries so officials can quickly open the library/DRC that is best able to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

Massachusetts is currently working to expand the project into the Western part of the state where ice storms earlier this year caused significant damage.

If you would like to become a part of the disaster recovery effort, please visit

www.mass.gov/connectandserve to find out how you can volunteer in your community.

Boards and Commissions Goes Online

This month, the Patrick/Murray Administration is launching a website for boards and commissions to which the Governor makes appointments, furthering its commitment to government transparency and promotion of public service. For the first time, this website will enable Massachusetts residents to take greater ownership over their government by applying to serve on these important governing bodies. The Governor will make roughly 2,500 appointments to over 700 boards and commissions in his first term, made up almost entirely of volunteers willing to contribute their time and expertise to the betterment of our Com-

monwealth.

The boards and commissions website will make it easy to learn more about and apply online for opportunities to serve on boards from; boards of trustees at state and community colleges to the bodies that regulate professional licensure. There are boards associated with virtually every area of policymaking, from the over 300 Housing and Redevelopment Authorities to the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources. Every facet of Massachusetts government holds opportunities for active citizenship through a related board or commission.

Visitors to the web site will

be able to easily search for boards by policy area and by keyword. When using the application submission feature, candidates can specify a specific board of interest or up to three relevant policy areas. The site allows uploading of resumes and cover letters in any common format as well as through direct text entry. Submitted applications will instantly be added to a new central database of all individuals who are interested in serving on boards and commissions.

The boards and commissions web site will launch during the next few weeks and will be available at www.mass.gov/governor/boards.



**Deadline:
April 10, 2009**

Massachusetts has a rich history of academic excellence. The Patrick/Murray Administration is committed to bringing people into civic life, asking them to check back in - or to check in for the first time - and to join us in our efforts to move Massachusetts forward.

Our internship program offers students the chance to engage in public service and participate in their government at work.

Applications are now being accepted for summer and fall 2009

Please see the website for application deadlines and details.

www.mass.gov/governor/interns

Transportation Reform Meets Civic Engagement

On February 20th, Governor Patrick unveiled his vision for a comprehensive reform plan to radically simplify the Commonwealth's transportation system while addressing serious fiscal challenges stemming from decades of neglect and inaction. At the core of the Governor's plan is support for transportation services in every region of the state and increased accountability and transparency throughout our transportation system. In that vein, YouMove Massachusetts was designed as a participatory approach to transportation planning. YouMove Massachusetts began as the Executive Office of Transportation's (EOT) strategic planning effort in the summer of 2008 with the goal of defining a vision for the prioritization of long-term capital and programmatic transpor-

tation investments to address identified system gaps and mobility challenges. Ten workshop locations were selected to cover as many of the Commonwealth's regions as possible and resulted in over 600 individual and online comments which were used to develop ten themes for the YouMove Massachusetts planning effort. Today the YouMove Massachusetts website (<http://tinyurl.com/b3khru>) has become a vehicle for civic engagement, with the recent launch of a comment submission mechanism, a blog, as well as an interactive map. In addition, it provides a real opportunity for the Patrick/Murray Administration to directly interact with the public about our transportation needs. Each of these features was designed with the belief

that the best way to identify solutions for our current transportation funding crisis is to listen to the people who use our transportation services and facilities. The website provides users uncensored facts about the state of our transportation system. The blog feature enables and encourages residents to contribute to the conversation and voice questions, suggestions and comments. The interactive map feature allows residents to identify and alert EOT to gaps and challenges in mobility.

For more information about the Governor's Transportation and Economic Security Plan, or to contribute your feedback and ideas please visit

<http://tinyurl.com/b3khru> or contact the Office of Transportation Planning at 617.973.7313.

From the Executive Branch and Across the Commonwealth

Public events being hosted by the Executive Offices include:

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Refugees and Immigrants

New Americans Agenda Public Meeting

Mar. 18—Fitchburg High School, 5:30PM–7:30PM

Dept. of Public Health Poison Prevention State House Event

Mar. 18—Great Hall, State House, 9AM–11:00AM
Sponsored by the Regional Center for Poison Prevention with help from DPH.

Supporting School Wellness in MA Symposium-Nutrition and Physical Activity Approaches in Schools.

Apr. 7—Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, Marlborough, 9AM–3:30PM



Over 350 people attended the Springfield Community New American's Agenda Public Meeting, Wednesday Feb. 18th

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MassWildlife

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting

Mar. 12 & Apr. 9—MassWildlife's Field Headquarters in Westborough 1:30PM-4:30PM

Fisheries & Wildlife Board Meeting

Mar. 24—MassWildlife Field Headquarters off North Drive, Westborough, 1 PM

Mass Dept. of Environmental Protection

Dominion Energy Brayton Point LLC is proposing to construct and operate two natural draft cooling towers for the conversion of its Somerset power plant to closed cycle cooling.

MassDEP has issued a proposed conditional approval of this conversion project

Public Hearing

Mar. 16—Old Town Hall, 1478 County St., Somerset 7PM

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB)

Public Meetings - to consider applications submitted by agencies seeking CORI certification.

Mar. 25 & Apr. 22—MITC CNFR, 200 Arlington St., Chelsea 9:30AM

Gun Control Advisory Board

Apr. 17—State Police HQ, 470 Worcester Road, Framingham, 10AM

LABOR & WORK-FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ready to Succeed

A statewide initiative to increase graduation rates and cultivate education and career options for youth

For more information or to register, please call Commonwealth Corporation at 617.727.8158

Mar. 19—Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, Sackowich Campus Center, 8AM-12:30PM

Mar. 23—Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 265 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, 7:30AM-12:30PM

Apr. 16—Hoagland Pincus Conference Center, UMass Worcester campus in Shrewsbury, 8AM–12:30PM

Apr. 30—UMass at Dartmouth, ATMC Center, 1:30PM-6PM

COMMONWEALTH CORPS INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY



Corps members have worked tirelessly with City officials, community members, and Corporations to turn the first floor of the old Everett High School into a new B&G Club site and a welcoming atmosphere for teens.

"I cannot say enough about how much service programming such as the Commonwealth Corps has impacted our organization. It has made the "impossible" possible" said Mechilia Eng, Executive Director Boys & Girls Club of Middlesex County.

Check out Commonwealth Corps' newsletter at:
<http://tinyurl.com/brn3ms>

Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day 2009

April 23, 2009

This day is an opportunity to encourage our daughters and sons that they can be whatever they want to be in life. With your participation, we can build a stronger and more equitable Commonwealth.

Office of Access and Opportunity State of Civil Rights in the Commonwealth

Residents are encouraged to come forward and share their comments and concerns about civil rights issues impacting them or their community.

(If you cannot attend, you can submit comments via stateofcivilrights@state.ma.us.)

Apr. 2—New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant St. 6-8PM

(Hosted in conjunction with the MA Commission Against Discrimination, the Civil Rights Division of the Attorney General's Office, the Dept. of Housing and Community Development, and the MA Office on Disability.)

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Affirmative Market Program

Mar. 19 & Apr. 22—AMP Basic Procurement Workshop
Operational Services Division,
1 Ashburton Place, Rm. 1017,
Boston, 10AM-12PM

The AMP invites all Minority and women Owned Businesses (M/WBES) who are new to state procurement and are interested in learning how to maximize their status; find opportunities for AMP partnerships and market as an AMP Participant to state entities.

Apr. 28—AMP Intermediate Vendor Training
1 Ashburton Place, CNFR Rm. 21st Fl., Boston, 8:45AM—2PM

(All workshops and training require pre-registration and some require an entrance fee. Please go to www.mass.gov/amp for details.)

Operational Services Division

Providing information to eligible entities and municipalities on cost saving opportunities with OSD's statewide contracts, programs and services and Comm-PASS the Commonwealth's e-procurement system:

(To register, please e-mail osdoutreach@osd.state.ma.us)

Mar. 12—Statewide Contract Educational Session – 220 Washington St., Somerville, 10AM-12PM

Email "Somerville" in the subject line and contact information in the body.

Mar. 31 - Comm-PASS/ Statewide Contract Overview Session, Town of Norton. Email "Norton" in the subject line.

Homeowner Foreclosure Prevention Workshop



Join the Patrick Administration and area officials as they bring together mortgage lenders and homeowners from Lowell and Brockton (respectively) and their surrounding cities and towns.

With Lowell City Manager Bernard Lynch

Apr. 2—DoubleTree Hotel, 50 Warren St., Lowell 2—8PM
<http://tinyurl.com/asoprw>

With Brockton Mayor James E. Harrington

Apr. 3—Conference Center at Massasoit, 770 Crescent St., Brockton, 2—8PM
<http://tinyurl.com/bvzhdo>

MASSACHUSETTS



PARK SERVE DAY

April 25, 2009

Governor Deval Patrick, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Rick Sullivan invite you to Park Serve Day 2009. This year's event features parks from the Berkshires to Cape Cod, giving you a wide range of volunteer opportunities to choose from.

Check out www.mass.gov/dcr/ps or call 617.626.4980 to find a park near you!

This year Park Serve Day ends
National Volunteer Week

Please visit www.mass.gov/connectandserve for volunteer opportunities in your area.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

Trails and Greenways Task Force Meeting

Mar. 18—EOT Conference Room One (Enter through STB, Room 3170) 10AM—11:30AM

Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting

Mar. 18 & Apr. 15—EOT Conference Room One (Enter through STB, Room 3170) 1PM—3PM

Green Line Extension Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Analysis

Mar. 9—Brooks Elementary School, 388 High Street, Medford, 5:30pm

Mar. 11—Somerville High School, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, 5:30PM
Public comments and questions will be welcomed.